

Dear School Food Professionals and School Authorities

Carefully review the following updates:

- Please see the 2022-2023 school year (SY) [Reimbursement Rates](#) for lunches, afterschool snacks and breakfast served to children participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Overall, reimbursement payments have increased from last year due to the annual adjustment for food cost required by law and a temporary increase of \$0.40 center per school lunch and \$.015 per school breakfast as authorized by Congress in the Keep Kids Fed Act.
- **P-EBT** Please carefully review the P-EBT FAQ for the 2021-2022 SY. [P-EBT FAQ SY 2021-22 | Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(mo.gov\)](#). These benefits are not yet ready to roll out but we wanted to keep you in the loop. At this time, our office is still working with developers to finish a secure portal. Please also carefully review the [P-EBT Letter to Schools](#) concerning the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer for the 2021-22 SY. In August schools should expect to begin submitting student COVID-related absent days from the 2021-2022 SY for free and reduced-price eligible students. Note: Seamless Summer Option (SSO) **does not** qualify all students as “free” eligible. Eligibility is based on direct certification, free or reduced-price meal application, foster and/or homeless status, CEP, or Provision II.
 - **P-EBT at CEP and Provision II Schools-** If the child’s school was approved for and/or operated CEP or Provision II during the 2021-2022 SY then all students who had a documented COVID-related absence at the school operating the provision may be eligible for P-EBT benefits for the days the student was absent. Note: Seamless Summer Option (SSO) **does not** qualify all students as “free” eligible. Eligibility is based on direct certification, free or reduced-price meal application, foster and/or homeless status, CEP, or Provision II. If your school CEP application was not renewed and approved for 2021-2022 SY then students at that school are not considered “free” eligible based on CEP and determinations can only be made using direct certification or other approved documents to determine free or reduced-price eligibility.
- **Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)**- The SY 2022-2023 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) tool is now available on the [Food and Nutrition Services Paid Lunch Equity](#) website. Our office applied and was approved for a waiver for Paid Lunch Equity [42 U.S.C. 1760(p)(2) and 7 CFR 210.14(e)]. This waiver is designed to provide schools flexibility to not raise paid lunch prices. Schools must still evaluate paid lunch prices and then really consider food service budgets and take into consideration that meal reimbursement will be based on the NSLP reimbursement amounts starting July 1, 2022 and food prices continue to be on the rise. Changes to paid meal prices must not decrease the quality of reimbursable meals. This waiver would allow schools to either increase or decrease paid lunch prices for paid reimbursable meals only and set prices according to local needs and ability to maintain a healthy food service program operating budget. As a reminder, the PLE requirement only applies to school lunch paid student prices.
- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)**- Free and Reduced-price eligibility data from 2019-2020 will again be used for the 2022-2023 FFVP applications, same as last year. We are still working with our technology system developers to roll this data over into the 22-23 SY applications. We hope to see this project finished soon and we will notify you when complete.

- **Severe-need**- LEAs that used nationwide waivers to operate SSO during the 2020-2021 and/or 2021-2022 SY may not have the data needed to determine eligibility for severe need reimbursement rates for breakfast served through the School Breakfast Program (SBP) or the two cent differential reimbursement for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) lunches served in 2022-23 and or 2023-2024. Our office is working with our technology system developers to roll over most recent data from 2019-2020 SY. We hope to see this project finished soon and we will notify you when complete.
- **Summer Workshops**- If you have not yet registered for our DESE Food and Nutrition Services workshops please review the details here [Newsletters, Webinars & Workshops | Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(mo.gov\)](#). We look forward to training with you!
- The [Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022](#):
 - **Summer 2022**: Extended nationwide waivers for schools not located in areas of high poverty to operate summer meal programs for summer meals only. This waiver for area eligibility authority is not applicable for the regular 2022-2023 SY and only available for summer meals only. Extended summer waivers do permit non-congregate meals, parent/guardian meal pick-up, meal service times and offer vs. serve. Click here to participate in these extended summer waivers to serve summer meals at an open site only. [Nationwide Waiver to Extend Summer Operation Waivers Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)
 - **2022-2023 SY** - Extended waivers permit non-congregate meals, parent/guardian meal pick-up, meal service times, and offer vs. serve. These waivers are available for schools to implement alternative COVID-related meal service methods as needed throughout the 2022-2023 SY. We will soon release a survey monkey for schools to opt-in to use these waivers. Meals must be claimed under NSLP and SBP for the 2022-2023 SY. Free meals under Seamless Summer Option (SSO) was not extended by Congress.
- **Food Distribution Director- WELCOME Ronda McCullick!**

THANK YOU,

DESE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES
573-751-3526

[Food & Nutrition Services | Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(mo.gov\)](#)